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I'M THERE



Simply the best
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Charges dropped
Port man fired gun.
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Ships returning
Canal season resumes March 22.
Page 9

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■ **ROADS:** Need work

Township tax increase sitting at 2.64%

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WAINFLEET — Roads dominated budget deliberations last week as Alderman took their first look at Wainfleet's 2011 budget.

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See Inside:

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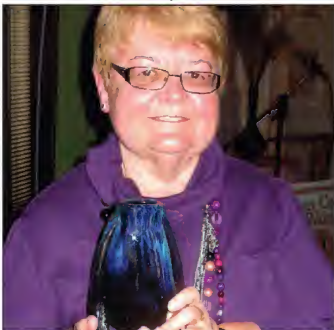
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■ **CHAMBER AWARDS:** Citizen of the year



Nancy Horpenuk of Port Colborne was named citizen of the year at the fourth annual Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce President's Awards night, Wednesday.

Horpenuk a tireless volunteer for Port Colborne

JOHN VESSOYAN
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — If there's a job to do or a task to tackle, call Nancy Horpenuk. Her plate always seems to be full, but her desire and passion to help others remains great.

The 62-year-old Port Colborne native is always willing to give to the people of her hometown.

Horpenuk has served as president of the horticultural society, she's a member of Friends Over 55 seniors club, serves as a secretary for the hospital foundation and is a volunteer at Arabella's Tea Room, Canal Days and for the city's

music festival. She also goes to Northland Pointe to visit a friend often.

Last week at the Roselawn Centre, Horpenuk was recognized as Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce's citizen of the year.

A school teacher in the city for 30 years, Horpenuk had to stay busy when she retired, so she decided to get more involved within the community. After all, she had all of this extra time and wanted to make good use of it and serve her people.

"It's things I want to do, not things I have to do," she said.

See CITIZEN | page 2

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■ TAXES

Alderman questions cost of study

FROM PAGE 1

Staff had asked for \$30,000 to be set aside for study to determine which roads in the township were in the worst state and which should be fixed first.

Ald. Ted Hessels said he didn't know that kind of study would cost that much — and didn't think the money should be spent on one.

Other alderman agreed with Hessels and felt township staffers could figure out road priorities themselves.

Operations director Greg Wuisman thanked council for its vote of confidence in staff, but said the \$30,000 would be spent on a consultant that specializes in roads and road conditions.

"We have 500 lane-kilometres of roads, the study would look at the priority for paving them and tell us where our money should be spent," Wuisman said in the long run, the study would help the township save money.

Still, Hessels said the township should put the \$30,000 back into the roads budget so it could be used to fix roads.

Because the lakeshore serving project has been killed by the township, he said long-neglected roads in that area should be fixed first.

Wuisman will come back with a list of roads that staff believe should be fixed first.

The roads budget is poised to come in at \$2.1 million, up from last year's \$1.97 million.

Wainfleet's overall budget has been tentatively set at \$3.97 million, up about \$240,000 from 2010.

During the budget debate, which lasted more than four

hours, council heard the township is facing a number of challenges.

Treasurer Robyn Madere said there's been low assessment growth, insurance costs have soared by 18.3%, there's aging infrastructure to deal with and there's also been an increase in tax arrears.

Council also heard Wainfleet Arena needs work done to it, after fire and building code problems were found.

"There's no fire alarm system in the building whatsoever," said fire Chief Chris Cole, who considers that an immediate threat to life.

A hourly fire watch has been set up in the arena whenever it's in use.

Cole and the building inspector also found additions put on the arena with no record of building permits issued for them. Cole said he was being lenient in allowing the facility to stay open.

To bring the arena up to code, \$450,000 would need to be spent. Council set aside \$50,000 for upgrades this year and wondered if further work could be put off until the recreation master plan was completed.

There was some discussion about adding more funding in for the arena this year.

Alderman didn't finalize the budget, which now equates to a 2.64% tax hike, or \$78.50 added to the bill of an average home assessed at \$298.55.

They will meet Monday, March 14, at 1 p.m. in council chambers to continue discussions and possibly finalize the budget.

djohnson@wellandtribune.ca

■ CITIZEN

'The rewards come back tenfold'

FROM PAGE 1

"It's my choice to do them and enjoy doing them. When you're a volunteer, the rewards come back to you tenfold because you see how people appreciate what you

do for the community. I want Port Colborne to be a good place to live."

Her philosophy is when something needs to be done, do it yourself.

"I just do it. I just go and

I do it. If I find that there's something has to be done, I do it," she said.

The awards reception was held inside the President's Room at Roselawn. The show was hosted by Paul

Wainwright and Rita Carrey of 91.7 GIANT FM.

"We've had a great year at the chamber," said president Mike Sloat.

jussoyan@wellandtribune.ca

■ CHAMBER AWARDS: A salute to community leaders

Zoe Walters, Canalside owners among best of the year

JOHN VESSOYAN
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Zoe Walters, Greg Poisson and Rosemary Poisson had big smiles on their faces last week.

All three were big winners during the fourth annual Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce President's Awards reception at the Roselawn Centre.

Walters, a Grade 12 student at Port High, and the Poissons, who own Canalside Pub and Eatery in Port Colborne, won the youth citizen of the year and business of the year awards respectively.

Walters is a very busy 17-year-old girl.

Not only is she an honour roll student in high school, she is the prime minister of her student council, member of the environmental club, soccer team, dance team, serves as a lifeguard, swimming instructor and youth health promoter. She's also involved in Terry Fox runs and local food drives.

"I'm trying to manage my time," Walters said, after receiving her award.

As for the award itself, she said it means a great deal to



JOHN VESSOYAN Staff Photo

From left to right are youth citizen of the year Zoe Walters, citizen of the year Nancy Horpenuk and business of the year winners Rosemary and Greg Poisson of Canalside. They were honoured during the fourth annual Port Colborne-Wainfleet Chamber of Commerce President's Awards.

her. "I'm very honoured," said Walters, who plans to attend Brock University in the fall to study sociology.

The Poissons are known to be very giving business owners in the city. They've enjoyed success since they

opened Canalside on West St. four years ago and aren't afraid to share it with members of the community.

The community supports them, and they support the community, they say.

The owners often give high

school students co-op placements restaurant in order for the youngsters to gain some much-needed work experience.

"It's nice to be recognized," Rosemary said of the award.

jussoyan@wellandtribune.ca

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Barry Davis - Sept. 2010

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portraits

Raging Wolf Mayhem

See story and photo page 12



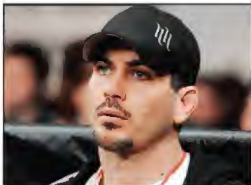
DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Alexis Davis, Raging Wolf's female champion, signed autographs last Saturday at Raging Wolf Mayhem in the Mist XI. Davis is now teaching at Raging Wolf MMA Gym in Depew, N.Y. She'll be defending her title in May.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Ultimate Fighter Season 12 winner Jonathan Brookins poses at Raging Wolf Mayhem in the Mist XI last Saturday.



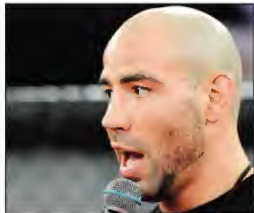
DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Sam Pasquizzi, of Dayboili-Pasquizzi Jiu-Jitsu in Fort Erie, watches action from ringside last Saturday at Raging Wolf Mayhem in the Mist XI. Pasquizzi has fought twice Raging Wolf and has a 1-1 record with organization.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Dave Dayboili, of Dayboili Jiu-Jitsu in Port Colborne, and Alexis Davis, Raging Wolf's female champion, watch action from ringside last Saturday at Raging Wolf Mayhem in the Mist XI. The two are now also teaching at Raging Wolf MMA Gym in Depew, N.Y. Davis will defend her title in May.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Former UFC fighter Ben Saunders talks inside the WolfTag at Raging Wolf Mayhem in the Mist XI last Saturday.

INPORT NEWS

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■ ourview

Shipping season draws near

It won't be long before the shipping season starts and vessels start making their way through the Welland Canal.

The canal is set to reopen on Tuesday, March 22 with ceremonies at Lock 3 in St. Catharines and one in Port Colborne.

In Port Colborne, the festivities will kick off on Sunday, March 20, with a Mariner's Celebration that will take place at St. James' St. Brendan Church, 55 Charlotte St., beginning at 7 p.m.

The ecumenical event not only celebrates the opening of the canal, but pays tribute to the city's marine heritage by offering up hopes and prayers for local mariners and the marine industry. The evening will feature music by The Ancient Mariners — a choir comprising members of various churches in Port Colborne and Welland.

The city's traditional Top Hat Ceremony will take place on March 22, in the auditorium at Port Colborne High School. A light breakfast will be prepared by the school's kitchen staff and served beginning at 8:30, followed by the ceremony at 9 a.m.

Last year, the ceremony was held in the auditorium at Lakeshore Catholic High School.

Mayor Vance Badaway said the day works to "introduce the next generation to the marine industry."

Students will learn about the different disciplines within the marine industry, such as engineering and culinary arts for those cooking in the ship's galley, and the need for positions to be filled, the mayor has said.

While we understand Badaway's reasoning, we wonder whether having the ceremony at the school cuts the community off from attending.

The ceremonies held at Lock 8 Park over the years have always been weather dependent, but members of the public have always shown up to witness the first downbound ship through Port Colborne.

At last year's event, other than students, there weren't very many members of the public in attendance.

The ceremony could be moved back to Lock 8 Park and students could be invited to attend it.

Though timing is always an issue. One never knows exactly when the first ship will come in. The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. gives a time when the ship will be in, but there are factors such as weather and how much ice there is in the lake that play a role in the arrival time.

Maybe the city could hold part of the ceremony at either school, because introducing students to the marine industry is a good idea, and then move it to Lock 8 when the ship comes in.

■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

PASTOR JEEVA SAM
Morgan's Point and Forks Road East United Churches.

"Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it" (Luke 17:33). These words of Jesus remind me of an incident that happened in the early 1900s in North India.

Sadhu Sunder Singh, a Christian missionary, and a companion were travelling through a mountain pass in the Himalayas when they spotted a human form lying in the snow. The man had a pulse, but it was quite faint. Clearly he was dying. Sunder Singh could not bear the thought of leaving the dying stranger in the snow. So he suggested to his travelling companion that they pick him up and carry him with them. His friend objected vehemently: "We shall lose our lives if we burden ourselves with him." When Sunder Singh made it clear that he could not, in good conscience, allow the partially frozen man to simply lie there and die, his companion simply said goodbye and continued the journey on his own.

Although he was quite frail, Sunder Singh lifted the dying man onto his back and started travelling through the snow. The high altitude and deep snow made the task onerous and left him out of breath. Nonetheless he persisted and moved

forward, one laborious step at a time.

As he kept walking, the heat from his body began to warm the frozen man. His pulse got stronger, his breathing became normal and his strength returned. Soon the two men were walking together side by side, supporting each other and supplying blood to the other.

After a while, they spied the body of a man in the snow and checked for vital signs, but there was no pulse. He had obviously frozen to death. Sadly, the dead man turned out to be Sadhu Sunder Singh's original travelling companion.

That is quite a dramatic illustration of Jesus' words, isn't it?

The one who risks losing his life is saved, while the one who tries to save his life ends up losing it.

Are there other ways in which this saying holds true today?

I have personally seen this principle used in grief counselling. A woman who is depressed over the death of her husband is directed to simply be a friend to a house-bound octogenarian. She starts visiting for an hour or two and they strike up a friendship. Gradually, the visits keep getting longer and more frequent. Soon she is so caught up in loving himself to the point that she herself is saved from the sieve of depression.

■ COLUMN

Mastiff breeds of Grup 3 Working dogs



Sandie Bingley
IT'S A DOGS LIFE

The giant Mastiff type of dogs can be traced back thousands of years to Egypt and Tibet. They were very huge in size with big broad heads, loose lips, heavy bone and great weight. They were fearless against man or wild beasts of that time.

The Mastiff or Old English Mastiff of the British Isles is claimed to be the dog behind many of our mastiff type dogs of today. In ancient times they were known as "teddies" because they were kept tied up in the daytime. At night, they were turned loose to fend the countryside of wolves and bear to keep the villagers safe. When the Roman armies invaded Britain, these Mastiffs fought alongside their owners.

The Romans were very impressed with the courage of these dogs. So some of these Mastiffs were taken back to Rome and from

there went on to Greece. These dogs are seen in the artwork of the Romans and the Greeks.

When the explorer Marco Polo went to Asia and met the Emperor Kubla Khan, he was amazed to find that the Emperor had over 5,000 Mastiffs for hunting lions, other big game and even rogue elephants.

Today, the Mastiff is still a giant sized dog but has a gentle, loyal temperament and devoted to the family.

The Neapolitan Mastiff is a massive dog with great weight and size and is usually a blue-grey colour. In ancient times these dogs had cropped ears as their large ears would be greatly damaged during fights. As a Mastiff's job was to protect Italy's farmers from wild aggressive animals of the times.

Because of their courage they evolved into service, guard or escort dogs. But very few of the Neapolitan Mastiffs survived through the centuries. After the Second World War a few very dedicated Breeders in Italy rebuilt the breed. Today the Neapolitan Mastiff is usually gentle and unaggressive but he is still a good guard dog to defend his home and his family.

The Bullmastiff breed was developed out

An already busy businessman chooses to invest himself in the life of a struggling young man, even though the additional time and effort is a burden he does not really need. Unexpectedly, the market demand dries up for his product, but the protégé's creative abilities, coupled with his mentor's experience save the day.

It operates in relationships as well. The one who will not risk spending time with loved ones for fear of losing a promotion at work ends up losing his family and health while the one who is willing to lose work time by lavishing it on family members ends up gaining family and health even when the job is gone.

A church refuses to stay cloistered behind closed doors, choosing instead to open up its doors to the needy community outside and gains life and vitality. A church that refuses to open up its doors for fear of losing good members ends up closing its doors for good.

"Whoever tries to keep her life will lose it, and whoever loses her life will preserve it" (Luke 9:35). In the centuries before Christ, North India or 21st century North America, Jesus' words still ring true, don't they?

(Jeena Sam pastors both United Churches in Wainfleet — Morgan's Point & Forks Road East. He may be reached at pastor@morganspointchurch.com)

of necessity to keep the British King's deer safe from poachers and keep the King's gamekeepers safe from being killed by these thieves. The gamekeepers developed a dog that was fast enough to outrun the poachers, dark in colour so as not to be seen at night, and a silent barker.

The Bulldog had the spunk but not the size to do the job. The Mastiff had the size but not the speed. So the Bullmastiff was the result of crossing these two breeds. The Bullmastiff was silent, courageous, brindle (dark) in colour and could knock down, pin and hold but not injure the thief until help arrived to capture him.

He became known as the "gamekeeper's night dog" and did his job very well. Eventually the Bullmastiff became popular as a family dog and the fawn (tan) colour became most popular for the breed. Today they are still a quiet breed devoted to family.

The Mastiff may have started out centuries ago as very aggressive dog but now they have become mostly gentle giants devoted to family and friends.

Next time: More Breeds from Grup 3 — Working Dogs

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■ **CHANGE:** Weather does an about-face in 24 hours of writing

Springing into spring — sort of



George Duma
BY GEORGE

Spring.

It's the perfect label for this time of year.

Time springs forward. It happens this weekend, in fact, at 2 a.m. Sunday.

But it's more than that. People seem to have a spring in their step at this time of year, especially when March comes in like the lamb it did this year.

That spring in the step is something that often goes

missing through the heavy, hard days of winter. Real winter. Late December, through January and February when we don't have so much to look forward to, when we're not actually wishing for snowfalls so we can have that White Christmas.

Springs melt in spring and begin flowing again. That's really cool.

Days are getting noticeably longer.

You get the idea.

But this is where I become the freak of nature.

As Spring arrives, I will lament the end of winter.

I love winter. Absolutely adore winter.

For example, I love shoveling snow. There's a certain kind of magic to going out into the snow-covered world and finding the driveway and walkway again with the help of a shovel, enjoying the bonding with nature one gets when one simply shrugs off one of its elements and deals with it.

I love going for walks in the winter, layered properly of course and with winter boots on, heading down through the neighbourhood only to find the snow-covered beach

up by Suriside and trekking back home along that beach. The lake is beautiful, with its huge mounds and shimmering ice.

But that's certainly not to say I don't appreciate spring when it comes. I do.

And I spring into action at this time of year. I think we all do. We find energy that has been sitting dormant through weeks and weeks of dark, cold weather. We get a sense of renewal, the same sense everything around us gets, whether it's budding trees or returning birds.

That's most certainly how I feel as I sit writing this last Saturday. It's raining outside

but it's so mild the snow is almost all gone. This truly feels like a typical spring day. I have errands to run now, though, so I'll put on my rain jacket and head out around town.

I'll have to continue this Sunday.

■ ■ ■

Wow! What a difference a day can make. It's about noon on Sunday and I just got in from shoveling the driveway. We got hit hard overnight

with yet another big snowfall.

As I wrote yesterday, I do actually enjoy going out and getting that winter exercise. It's just that I thought I was done for the year. Be careful what you wish for, I guess.

So now we're back to winter. Oh well.

But as I was saying about spring yesterday, it's almost here and I believe we're all ready for the rejuvenation it brings.

See DUMA | page 6

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■ DUMA

Spring, fall are beautiful

FROM PAGE 5

I think spring and fall are the two most beautiful seasons for totally opposite reasons.

Where fall signals an end, a wrap-up if you will to the summer and a preparation for winter, spring is the beginning of something wonderful. Winter becomes officially over and the glow of the new season takes over. Spring is our reward for dealing with — and surviving — yet another winter.

We get out our gardening tools and prepare to beautify our surroundings. We put away our winter boots and jackets and get out our windbreakers and umbrellas.

I really can't understand how people live in the southern climes, where it's warm all year round. I know many people love heat and would happily move at the

drop of a hat if they could.

I could never do that. I can't imagine living without four seasons, as distinct from one another as anything could be.

Who knows what the weather is like today, Friday, as we prepare to greet another day?

But if snow is on the ground, we can take heed — it won't be here for long. Soon we will have glorious sunshine in which to bask far into the evening.

Can't wait. And this coming from a winter-lover.

George Duma is a resident of Port Colborne and has spent 30 years in the newspaper business. He welcomes comments and column suggestions and can be reached at: gduma@gocog.ca



GEORGE DUMA InPort News photo
This cottage on Lake Erie was surrounded by grass and mud about 24 hours before this was taken. What a difference a day makes indeed.

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■ **FIREBOMBING:** Ian Thomson shot gun as group was allegedly throwing Molotov cocktails at his home

Gun charges dropped against Port man

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — Two charges against a Port Colborne man who fired a gun to scare off men allegedly attempting to firebomb his house in August of last year were dropped by the Crown last week in court.

Ian Thomson, 53, had been facing a number of charges in relation to the incident which Niagara South Crown attorney Tyler Shuster called a dispute between neighbours that had been "simmering for years and boiled over."

Shuster said on Aug. 22, 2010, Thomson heard a loud noise behind his house at 3699 Snider Rd., Port Colborne, and when he went outside he found a man in a ski mask with a lit Molotov cocktail yelling "Are you ready to die?"

"Mr. Thomson went back into his house and grabbed a loaded .38 (calibre) and fired three rounds in the direction of the man," Shuster said.

The Crown attorney said that when looking at a case, he must take into consideration the viability of prosecution. He said

there is a set of rules in Canada about when and how a person can defend themselves and that when a case goes to trial, the Crown must disprove self-defence.

Shuster said in the circumstances of Thomson's case, there was no probability of a conviction on the first two counts of the charges and asked they be withdrawn.

Those charges were careless use of a firearm and pointing of a firearm.

Shuster also said the assessment carried out by the Crown only applies to the circumstances in Thomson's case and is not a broad statement on cases of self-defence.

He asked that the two remaining charges, careless storage of firearms, be dealt with at a future date.

Thomson's lawyer, Ed Burlew of Thornhill, will meet with the Crown attorney on April 11, in Welland, for a pre-trial hearing on the two remaining charges.

Burlew has 30 years experience as a lawyer and is self-described as Canada's top gun-specialty lawyer. He represents gun clubs and individuals facing



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Ian Thomson, left, of Port Colborne, stands near his lawyer Ed Burlew, right, outside of the Welland courthouse Wednesday morning. Burlew is representing Thomson, who was facing gun charges. The Crown withdrew careless use of a firearm and pointing of a firearm charges against Thomson, who still faces careless storage of firearms charges.

licensing problems and charged with gun offences.

"We thank the Crown for its consideration, which is always ongoing in any type of prosecution, and we're hopeful of a good resolution in this matter," said Burlew, who was

interviewed about Thomson's case by a website called www.daily3plit.com/earlier this year. Video of the interview can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LuoNnyDYoA. The video includes what is presented as part of the attack at

6:04 of the clip.

Burlew also thanked supporters who showed up inside and outside the courthouse on Wednesday. A peaceful protest had been planned for outside the courthouse.

Niagara Regional Police had

officers inside the courthouse doors using a wand to screen people entering and also had a presence outside as well. Tribune reporter Maryanne Firth spotted one officer on the roof of a building across the street. A police videographer was also at the courthouse.

Police spokesman Nilan Dave said the extra officers were on hand to ensure the safety of the public.

"We were prepared for the event," said Dave, adding police also wanted to ensure the safety of Thomson and his lawyer.

Thomson will be back in Welland court on Monday, April 11, to deal with the remaining charges.

Four people are facing arson charges in relation to the incident at Thomson's home. Randy Weaver, 48, of Port Colborne; Justin Lee, 19, of Welland; Richard Coulthearts, 46, of Welland; and Michael Theberge, 20, of Port Colborne, appeared in a St. Catharines courtroom on Tuesday, March 8, at 11 a.m.

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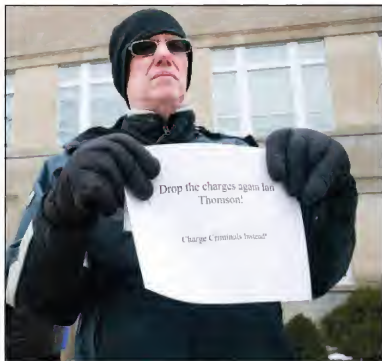
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Patrick Ciantar

■ **JUSTICE:** Protest peaceful

Strangers come to Thomson's defence



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
Toronto resident Robert Bailey stands out front of the Welland courthouse on Wednesday morning to show his support for Ian Thomson.

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

WELLAND — "Drop the charges against Ian Thomson. Charge criminals instead!"

Though that was the only sign at a peaceful protest in front of the Welland courthouse last week, it was a message shared by more than 20 people who gathered in support of the Port Colborne man.

Thomson, 53, faced charges after firing a gun to scare off men allegedly attempting to firebomb his home in August of last year.

Two of the charges were dropped by the Crown, but careless storage charges remain.

Thomson was charged with a series of criminal offences for "essentially just trying to defend himself and his property," said protester Michael Varey.

"I think this is a gross violation of the principles of Canadian law. It's outrageous," said the Hamilton resident.

Varey believed Thomson "deserves the support of the community," which is why he chose to make the trek to the Rose City.

Showing support, he said, will indicate that people are not happy with the direction the Crown attorney and police are taking in "prosecuting a man who on the surface of it appears to have done absolutely nothing wrong."

Thomson did "nothing that any of us under the same circumstances wouldn't hesitate to do," he said.

"I think this is a gross violation of the principles of Canadian law. It's outrageous."

Michael Varey, Hamilton

Toronto resident Robert Bailey felt strongly enough about the issue that he took the day off work to be part of the protest.

He was appalled that a man whose home was allegedly being firebombed was charged for taking "a firearm that was legally owned" and firing a warning shot above the heads of the assailants.

"The cops come and charge him instead of charging the criminals," he

said, calling it a "travesty of Canadian justice."

"I can just imagine Sir John A. Macdonald turning over in his grave," said Bailey, taking a brief break from pacing in front of the Cross St. building with a sign.

It's ridiculous. Every Canadian should be out here today protesting this."

Four people are facing arson charges in relation to the incident at Thomson's home. Randy Weaver, 48, of Port Colborne; Justin Lee, 19, of Welland; Richard Coulthart, 46, of Welland; and Michael Theberge, 20, of Port Colborne, will all appear in a St. Catharines courtroom on Tuesday, March 8 at 11 a.m.

"I'm a proud Canadian gun owner," Murray Bowen said while standing his ground outside the courthouse.

"I believe a man can defend himself and his home. It's what we're allowed to do according to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms," said the Dunnville resident.

"It's a God-given right to protect yourself. I would do the same thing if someone was trying to harm my family or my property."

Bowen said people need to put themselves in Thomson's shoes.

Though not everyone is in favour of guns, most would be thankful to have that protection if they were under attack in their own home, he said.

Tom Miedema was in Niagara visiting from Hamilton, B.C., when he learned from www.canadiangunnutz.com about Thomson's case and the protest. He travelled to the courthouse to show his support for Thomson's actions, which he deemed reasonable under the circumstances.

Thomson's home was being firebombed and he did what he considered necessary for his own safety, Miedema said.

Thomson will be back in Welland court on Monday, April 11, to deal with the remaining charges.

mjfrth@wellandtribune.ca

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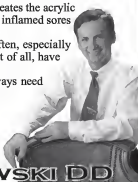
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■ **TRANSPORTATION:** Shipping resumes March 22

Canal season to be ushered in with top hat, Ancient Mariners

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORTR COLBORNE — The shipping season will soon set sail on the Welland Canal.

The canal will reopen on Tuesday, March 22, marking the 52nd anniversary of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

In Port Colborne, the festivities will kick off on Sunday, March 20, with a Mariner's Celebration that will take place at St. James' St. Brendan Church, 55 Charlotte St., beginning at 7 p.m.

The ecumenical event will not only celebrate the opening of the canal, but pay tribute to the city's marine heritage by offering up hopes and prayers for local mariners and the marine industry, said Mayor Vance Badaway.

The evening will feature music by The Ancient Mariners — a choir comprising members of various churches in Port Colborne and Wainfleet. Refreshments will be provided

afterwards at the Guild Hall.

While the church always hosts a mariner's mass, this year the city and the church have "come together to expand what we're both doing," Badaway said.

By expanding the celebration, the city, he said, is "taking a step further to appreciate the face-to-face effects of the industry in Port Colborne."

The city's traditional Top Hat Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, March 22, in the auditorium at Port Colborne High School. A light breakfast will be prepared by the school's culinary students and served beginning at 8:30, followed by the ceremony at 9.

The ceremony will officially kick off the shipping season for Port Colborne and Niagara, as well as highlight the skills programs available at the local high school, Badaway said.

While it is a celebration, the day will also work to "introduce the next generation to the marine industry," he said.

Students will learn about the different disciplines within the marine industry, such as engineering and culinary arts for those cooking in the ship's galley, and the need for positions to be filled.

Port Colborne recognizes the importance of the marine industry in the city, he said, and how it "delivers new economy to our city and throughout the region of Niagara."

About \$20 million in repairs, maintenance and improvements has been done since the canal closed at the end of the year, said Luc Boisclair, St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp.'s general manager of engineering for Niagara.

Locally, improvements have been made to vertical lift bridge festoon cables at Bridge 11 on Hwy. 20 in Thorold and Bridge 21 on Clarence St. in Port Colborne.

mfirth@wellandtribune.ca



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

As the opening of the 2011 Welland Canal shipping season nears, crews are still working to reface the concrete on the west lock wall at Lock 3 in St. Catharines.

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BENEFIT FOR DANCERS MARCH 12

PORT COLBORNE — Finesse Dance Studio is hosting its second annual Fun Fair at St. Theresa's Church March 12.

Running noon to 3 p.m., it is held to help parents offset escalating costs of renting facilities, purchasing costumes and renting equipment for year end shows.

There will be games for both adults and children, a raffle table, draws, a baked goods table, face painting, hair braiding, food, drinks and more. Studio students are getting

ready for their June production of The Enchanted Forrest, a fun children's adventure based on the upcoming book A Magical Journey, by Finesse's founder and published author J.L. Slipak.

All funds raised at the fun fair will go toward costs of the show.

Admission is \$3 per person or bring in two items for the studio's food drive to get in free. St. Theresa's Church is at 379 Fares St.

— QMI Agency

■ POLICE: Suspect being sought

Woman with car trouble attacked by 'Good Samaritan'

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Police are searching for a man who posed as a Good Samaritan, but instead attacked a woman having car trouble.

Last Tuesday at about 9 p.m., the 23-year-old woman was driving northbound on Elm St. near Porke Rd. in Port Colborne when her car suddenly stalled.

A male driving a pickup

truck stopped under the pretense of assisting her, Niagara Regional Police said.

Standing outside, the woman briefly spoke with the man about the car troubles. When she turned to walk back to her car the male grabbed her from behind and attempted to drag her backwards, police said.

The female was able to free herself from the male who then fled northbound on Elm St.

The suspect is described as

white in his late-30s to early-40s, 6-foot, with short brown hair and an unshaven face. He was wearing a bulky sweat-shirt, dark pants and steel toe boots.

The suspect's vehicle is described as an older dark Chevrolet pickup truck with wooden rails along the truck bed.

A news release about the attack was not issued until after 11:30 p.m. Thursday night.

Though he could not comment on details of this case specifically, NRP spokesman Const. Nilan Dave said there are a number of reasons why information may take time to reach the public.

Incidents are not always immediately reported, he said, and the credibility of the report must be investigated.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call 905-735-7811 ext. 3335.



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■ **CHAMP:** Alexis Davis at ringside for fights

Wellander wins fight by submission

DAVE JOHNSON
Tribune Staff

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — Matt DiCenso stuck to his game plan against opponent Oliver Kimmons and pulled off a victory at Raging Wolf Mayhem in the Mist XI Saturday night.

"The plan was to stick and move," said the 21-year-old Wellander, who was in his fourth amateur mixed martial arts fight and who fights out of Modern Vision MMA.

DiCenso, whose fight nickname is "The Bully," said if the fight stayed standing he would have looked to knock out Kimmons.

"I have good stand up, but I'm really confident in my ground game."

In the first round of their fight, the two 205-pounders met in the middle of the ring and traded some punches before Kimmons took the fight to the ground.

Though he was taken down, DiCenso didn't panic and looked for submissions from the bottom. The three-minute round — amateurs in Raging Wolf fight in three minute rounds — ended with DiCenso's corner telling their fighter that Kimmons looked tired. Kimmons, a fighter with a record of 1-1, is 43.

The two came in the second round with Kimmons again looking to take down DiCenso.

"He went for the takedown and I had one leg over the top of his shoulder."

When Kimmons moved to roll to his stomach,

DiCenso kept his leg over top and tucked it in against Kimmons' body. From that position, he was able to lock in a reverse triangle choke.

DiCenso's corner, with Modern Vision's owner and coach Chris Bonfoco and fellow fighter Andrew Cseh, yelled to the referee that Kimmons was tapping.

"I kept the hold in until the referee stopped it," adding he would never been where he was without Bonfoco and others at the Wellander-based club.

It was the first submission win for the fighter, who won his other fights by split decision, unanimous decision and TKO.

"It was awesome," he said of the win, which came at 56 seconds into the second round.

DiCenso, who has been training for the last two years, has a championship fight coming up later this month in Ohio and plans to turn professional later this year or next.

He'd love to go back and fight in Raging Wolf again, too.

"They did a great job, it's probably the best promotion I've been in."

While not on the card, Raging Wolf's female champion, Alexis Davis, was ringside and signing autographs. Davis and Dave Dayboll, of Dayboll Jiu-Jitsu, were both brought into the middle of the Wolfstag, as the cage is known in Raging Wolf, to talk about an agreement reached between the Port Colborne

club and the fight promotion.

Dayboll, along with Davis, are now teaching and training various programs, including ones for women and children, at Raging Wolf MMA Gym in Depew, N.Y.

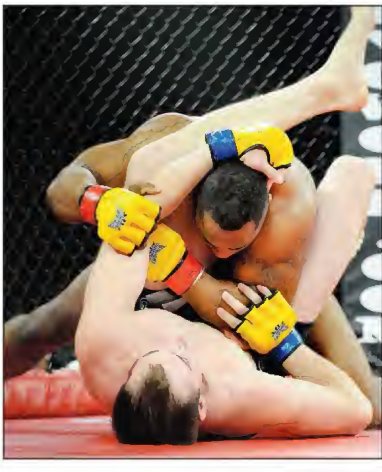
Davis also said she's ready to defend her championship belt in May, though no opponent has been named yet.

Also on hand for the fights were the UFC's season 12 Ultimate Fighter winner Jonathan Brookins and former UFC fighter Ben Saunders.

In other action, James Napoleon defeated Todd Tobia via strikes at 1:15 of the first round; Billy Quarantillo beat Jesse Billingham via strikes at 1:28 of the first round; Jason Whitenight defeated Kevin Ayres via unanimous decision after three rounds; Josh Lange beat Genaro DeJesus via unanimous decision after three rounds; Antonio Smith defeated Frank Scalzo via split decision after three rounds; T.J. Sumler beat Chris Robinson in the first round via referee stoppage; former UFC fighter Luigi Fioravanti defeated Mike Gueirn via unanimous decision after three rounds.

In the welterweight championship, Nuri Shafir kept his title belt after challenger Tom Egan was unable to continue after the end of the second round. Egan said a big weight cut at the start of the week left his body too weak to fight.

djohnson@
wellandertribune.ca



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Modern Vision MMA fighter Matt DiCenso looks to lock in a submission on fighter Oliver Kimmons. DiCenso won the fight at 56 seconds of the second round via reverse triangle choke.

PORT COLBORNE MINOR BASEBALL



PORT COLBORNE MINOR BASEBALL

Place: West Side Arena Upstairs

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■ **PORT COLBORNE BYLAWS:** East Village learns■ **HEALTH CARE:** Juanita Gledhill finishing her second term

Complaints should be registered with city

DAVE JOHNSON
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — In a second year, bylaw enforcement officer Sherry Hanson will receive any between 55 and 60 complaints about long grass and 300 to 400 general bylaw calling added to their tax bill.

Hanson revealed the figures to members of the East Village Community Group last week as she, and Dan Aquilina, the city's director of planning and development, spoke about bylaws and bylaw enforcement.

"We operate on a complaint basis," said Aquilina. He said the city does not have the resources to be proactive about bylaw enforcement and that's why a complaint about an issue, like long grass or a broken window, needs to be filed before the city can start an active investigation.

Aquilina said Hanson is the only full-time bylaw enforcement officer and he is on the city's website and people can see what category a complaint might fit in.

A broken window, she said, would fall under property standards.

For something like long grass, Hanson said to register a complaint about it, the grass has to be over eight inches in height. Once a complaint is registered at city hall, Hanson would head out and inspect the property. She would then follow up with time to cut the grass on their own. If the person didn't, city works crews would be sent out to cut.

"We're quite expensive," Hanson said, adding the

city is looking at increasing the rates and adding an admin fee as well. It usually takes between nine and 12 days from the time the complaint is registered to the point when the grass is cut.

Hanson said property owners will find the cost of the grass cutting added to their tax bill.

In most cases, she tries to work with property owners to resolve issues like long grass and broken windows before resorting to carrying out the work.

She tries to work on time sensitive infractions, like parking, first, before getting to things like property standards.

With all of the complaints in 2010, Hanson said she was stretched to the limit.

One thing she won't tolerate when it comes to complaints are frivolous ones. If someone constantly complains and there is no substance to the complaint, "we won't take their complaints anymore. We have enough to do."

But, she said, as citizens have a right to register a complaint about anything they see in the city.

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weldlandtribune.ca

GRANT LAFLECHE
QMI AGENCY

ST. CATHARINES — Juanita Gledhill's sometimes controversial leadership of the body that funds health care in Niagara will end this summer when her second and final three-year term as a member of the Local Health Integration Network expires.

"It's in the legislation," Gledhill said. "Members of the LHIN can only serve two terms. My last term ends on June 1."

Also leaving the LHIN are vice-chairman Jack Brewer and Niagara representative and former District School Board of Niagara chairman Bill McLean. Both men have also reached the end of their second terms.

Gledhill said she is proud of the work the LHIN did during her time as chairwoman, especially in "bringing local decision-making to health care."

In particular, she said increasing the number of respite and long-term care beds in Niagara has made a major difference in the community. She pointed to the LHIN's role in helping the Niagara Health System get increased funding from Queen's Park to overcome a systemic operating deficit.

"That was a problem



File photo
Juanita Gledhill, chair of the HNHBLHIN board, will see her second and final three-year term come to an end this summer.

from the start of the NHS," Gledhill said. "We collectively worked to the province, here is what the NHS is doing, here is how it is being

funded. And the funding always came up short."

However, she said she recognizes not all the decisions made by the LHIN were universally popular. Although the LHIN-mandated restructuring of the NHS continues to fan the flames of political opposition in some quarters in Niagara, Gledhill said it was the right decision.

"When we started, the NHS was inadequate. The level of service was not adequate. The quality of service was not adequate. For us, this was about making sure patients received the right care at the right time in the right place," she said.

Gledhill said she understands changes made at the NHS — including converting emergency rooms in Port Colborne and Fort Erie to urgent care centres — were sometimes unpopular.

"The evidence is what

the evidence is," she said. "I would encourage (municipal politicians) to look at the outcomes of the changes that were made."

She pointed to the stroke clinic in Niagara Falls and a cardiac rehab centre in Fort Erie as positive changes.

Gledhill, who joined the LHIN as chairwoman in 2005, said she has no plans to seek a position on another government-appointed board in the future. She said she promised her husband and teenage son she would spend more time at home in Hamilton.

She said the provincial government is in the process of replacing the departing members of the LHIN and hopes new ones will be chosen before the trio steps down.

"If it works out, then we will have to sometime to do a proper transition," she said.

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ALONG THE LAKESHORE

MONDAY, MARCH 14

The Port Colborne Historical Society will meet at 7 p.m. at Portal Village Retirement Home. Guest Joe Lannan will speak on the History of the Government Grain Elevator in Port Colborne. Call 905-835-2291 for more information.

WEDNESDAY MARCH 16

Downtown BIA will meet at 6:30 p.m. on third floor of city hall, 66 Charlotte St.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Port Colborne Optimists will host a Girls Night Out. The event will be held at the Brebeuf Hall, 300 Kilaly St. East, Port

Colborne.

Doors open at 7 p.m. and adult psychic will be there offering 15 minute readings for \$5. Live entertainment by Randy Thomas. Wine tasting with hors d'oeuvres being served by surprise servers and there will be a number of vendors displaying their items.

Tickets are now available and would make a great stocking stuffer. For more information or to purchase a ticket for \$25,

call 905-834-7988. All proceeds from the event will help the Port Colborne Optimists to continue helping the kids of Port Colborne.

AT THE WINNFLEET PUBLIC LIBRARY

March 14 to 18 is March Break for the School Fols. The Almanac predicts stormy weather for those days.

Winnfleat Library offers programs to turn potential stormy days into fun days. The programs offered will amuse, entertain and teach a range of age groups.

Monday, March 14 from 2 to 3 p.m. the imagination of 2 to 11 year olds will be challenged with a secret theme using Lego. Lego pieces will be supplied, please don't bring your own. There is no cost for this event. Pre-register at the Library.

Tuesday, March 15 the Red Cross Babysitting Course

is offered to youths 11 to 15. Teaching them to be prepared and responsive caregivers. Each student must bring a doll/teddy bear and a lunch. This 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. event requires registration by March 8, there are only 18 spaces available. \$50 fee. Upon completion of the Course each student will receive a Certificate from the Red Cross.

Wednesday, March 16 from 2 to 4 p.m. for kids and teens who know how to play chess. Boards will be provided at no cost, pre-register at the Library.

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NOMINATION FORM

"NOMINATION DEADLINE FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2011 5:00 P.M."

Please provide a brief description of the nominee's contributions to their family and community as well as a formal description of the nominee's efforts in school. (You may attach your description if more space is required to a maximum of 1,000 words.)

Name of Nominee Address City/Town Postal Code _____ Telephone # _____ Age <input type="checkbox"/> 6-12 <input type="checkbox"/> 13-18	NOMINATOR'S CHECKLIST Before forwarding your nomination, please ensure you've completed the following steps: Have You <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Signed the nomination form? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed all sections of the nomination form? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provided a brief description of the nominee's contributions? Nominator Name _____ Signature _____
--	---

Category: ☐ Cool to be Kind ☐ Against the odds ☐ Person of Best

NOMINATOR'S DESCRIPTION:

Mail or drop off completed nomination forms to:

THE TRIBUNE
 228 East Main St.
 P.O. Box 278
 Welland, ON L3B 5P5

Please note: Complete nomination forms, letters of support and any other materials submitted will not be returned

Judging Criteria

Nominations will be judged on the basis of the nominee's contributions to their family and community as well as a formal description of the nominee's efforts in school. There is a 1,000 word limit for all nominations. No additional material will be accepted. Judges will select each nominee from 1-10 in the following categories:
 - Who has the nominee accomplished during the past year?
 - How has the nominee's contribution impacted on themselves and others?
 - Why did the nominee want to do this?

COOL TO BE KIND Nominees will have performed a service or act of kindness, support or encouragement to a friend, family, neighbour or stranger with no personal gain for themselves. This could be an ongoing or one-time service to an individual, group or community. **PERSONAL BEST** Nominees will have achieved a level of performance beyond what might have been expected. This could mean achieving a top performance over or performance to the best of their ability. Achievement can be in any area including business, academics, athletics, music, art, writing, dance, etc.

AGAINST THE ODDS Nominees will have shown great strength, ambition and dedication in overcoming a mental, physical, personal, academic or environmental challenge to achieve a goal. All three criteria will be honored at the Great Kid Awards Gala on May 14, 2011.

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SCHOOLS

Port High's got talent

CARLY RICHARDSON
For InPort News

PORT COLBORNE — American Idol is one of the most popular reality television shows on TV today, so it was no surprise when Port Colborne High School came in front of the competition called Blue Bear Idol. The competition showcased the talented singers within Port High, crowning a winner at the end. This year, for the second year in a row, student council decided to find not only talented singers, but students who have a talent of any kind. The competition is called, "Port High's Got Talent."

"It's a great idea," Emilia Reber, who is on student council, said. "We have so much unknown talent at school, it's pretty grand."

Auditions for the event started last Tuesday and are still being held for acts willing to participate. Twenty acts auditioned for the competition, but only ten to twenty will make it into the actual show. Each act is given five minutes to convince the judges that they are Port High's most talented act. The judges panel consists

of teachers Mr. Stuckney and Mr. Grover, as well as two to four student council members.

"I get to participate behind and in front of the curtain," Emilia said. "It makes it even better."

"We have so much unknown talent at school, it's pretty grand."

Emilia Reber
student council member

Students who sing, play an instrument, play in a band, or have some sort of musical talent make up the majority of the acts in the competition. Outside of music, there are also dance routines and dramatic performances that will entertain the students the day of the finale. The finale of Port High's Got Talent takes place in the afternoon of April 8th where students are encouraged to watch the final acts perform. Though the voting system hasn't yet been decided on, it is most likely that the students that attend the finale will vote for the winner.

LOCAL STUDENTS
WORK TO HELP OTHERSLINDSEY RIEDKE
For InPort News

PORT COLBORNE — Carly

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Richardson and Arden Bull hosted a benefit concert at The Hub in Port Colborne recently, with hopes of raising money to help them travel to Kenya this summer.

Carly and Arden are hoping

to fly to the Maasai Mara region of Kenya to help build a school and water filtration system for the local African families. The girls must both raise \$5,000 in order to go on this trip through the Me to

We organization.

Approximately \$750 was raised during the benefit concert.

The girls are trying to think of other fundraising ideas to help raise more money.

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■ **HEALTH CARE:** Ministry says OK to 2007 plan

Bridges health centre gets nod for \$1.6M home

MARYVANE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has approved building Bridges a new home.

After nearly three years of waiting in anticipation, Bridges Community Health Centre recently learned it has been approved for construction of

a permanent site within Port Colborne.

Bridges executive director Taraalea McLean visited city hall last week to share news of the \$1.6-million construction project with council and the public.

"It feels wonderful to be at the construction phase," McLean told The Tribune, adding it was in fall 2007 when

Bridges initially approached the ministry about the project.

The centre has been providing services for the people of Port Colborne and Wainfleet out of two interim sites — in the Portia Village Plaza and at Port Colborne hospital — since fall 2009.

The new site will be located at the former bingo hall at 177 King St., next to the Belmont

Hotel, and will offer 630 square metres of space.

The significant increase of space will allow Bridges to not only be able to consolidate its staff and services under one roof, but also expand programming, McLean said.

Funded by the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network, the centre offers

a wide variety of primary health-care services, health promotion and illness prevention programs, and community development initiatives. Services are delivered by an interprofessional team of physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, social workers, dietitians, health promoters, diabetes educators and con-

sulting psychiatrists.

The new space will include more examination rooms, counselling offices, large rooms for community programming and a training kitchen.

Construction on the permanent site is expected to begin early this month, McLean said, with hopes of having operations up and running in the new facility by early fall.



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AUTONET: 2012 Buick Regal



Supplied photo

Economy enhancements in the 2012 Buick Regal with eAssist include a driver-selectable eco mode for the air conditioning system and an eco gauge in the instrument panel to aid drivers in attaining the best possible fuel economy.

Performance, economy expand Regal line-up

JOE DUARTE
QMI Agency

Hot on the heels of a successful reintroduction of the Buick Regal to the North American market, General Motors is bringing a couple new Regals in for 2012; and, they couldn't be any farther apart if Buick tried.

At the performance end of the Regal GS, whose concept drew rave reviews at the 2010 North American International Auto Show in Detroit, and subsequent appearances on the auto show circuit across the continents that followed.

The 2012 Buick Regal GS is a high-performance midsize sport sedan that can go from zero to 100 km/h in around seven seconds thanks to an exclusive high-output version of the Ecotec 2.0-litre turbo-charged four-cylinder engine. Here, it puts out 255 hp and 255 lb.-ft. of torque (up roughly 15% from the "ordinary" 2.0-litre in the Regal CXI Turbo). Refining in the hands is either a six-speed manual or six-speed automatic with paddle shifters.

To satisfy handling expectations, the Regal GS features Buick's Interactive Drive Control System that allows drivers to change between three suspension/steering settings (standard, sport, GS) depending on the type of drive (soft and easy for city driving; firmer and more direct as aggressiveness increases).

Racing inspired exterior body treatment and sporty

interior appointments (such as a sport flat-bottom steering wheel, metal pedals and sport leather seats) add to the sporting intentions of the Regal GS, which goes on sale in summer/fall 2011.

At the other end of the spectrum sits the 2012 Buick Regal with eAssist, which adds a 15 kW motor to the standard Regal CXI's 2.4-litre four-cylinder engine to boost horsepower by 15 hp (to a net of 197 hp) while improving economy by as much as 25%. The engine uses a standard six-speed automatic to send power to the front wheels.

The Regal with eAssist stores electricity captured through regenerative braking in a lithium ion battery pack located behind the rear seat (cutting down the Regal CXI trunk volume by 3.2 cubic feet). The slight hybrid system cuts off fuel delivery during deceleration and shuts down the engine or full stops.

Other economy enhancements include 17-inch light weight wheels and low rolling resistance tires, an driver selectable eco mode for the air-conditioning system, an eco gauge in the instrument panel to aid drivers in attaining the best possible fuel economy, and a power delivery readout in the centre stack to display how the system is working during different driving conditions.

The 2012 Buick Regal with eAssist is due in fall 2011 with prices set closer to launch (as are Regal GS prices).